GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7310
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2005
SMUGGLING OF DRUGS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence drug peddlers and mafia operating along Afghanistan and Pakistan route may try to offload more contraband into India in the wake of bumper harvest of poppy in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether the failure of the US to put an end to reign of druglords in Afghanistan may cost India dearly;

(c) if so, whether Indian Government has taken up the matter with the Afghanistan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the steps taken or being taken by Government to stop incoming of contraband goods in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI. S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a)&(b) : The available intelligence with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence suggests an increase in smuggling of drugs from Afghanistan and Pakistan into India in the wake of the reported bumper harvest of poppy in Afghanistan. The concerned enforcement agencies have been suitably alerted to deal with the situation and thwart any attempt of smuggling of drugs into India.

(c) : The matter of trafficking of Narcotics Drugs from Afghanistan has not been taken up formally with the Afghanistan Government but India has expressed its concerns in the matter at international fora, including at the United Nation's Commission on Narcotic Drugs meetings.

(d) : In order to combat trafficking across Indo-Pak border, the following steps have been taken:-

1. Exchange of information on traffickers during border meetings between BSF and Rangers of Pakistan.

2. Developing intelligence on traffickers smuggling drugs across Indo-Pak Border in co-ordination with other agencies.

3. Regular biannual meetings with Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan and exchange of intelligence relating to drug trafficking with Narcotics Control Bureau.